

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6782

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS' NEW YEAR MESSAGE

1. SUMMARY. IN NEW YEAR MESSAGE PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS PRAISED GREECE AS ONE OF FEW COUNTRIES WHICH HAD COME THROUGH TRAVAIL IN 1974 AND KNEW WHERE IT WAS HEADED IN 1975. PM WARNED THAT NATIONAL CRISIS STILL CONTINUED, APPEALED FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND VIGILANCE "UNTIL WE DECISIVELY LAY FOUNDATIONS FOR SECURITY AND PROSPERITY OF OUR COUNTRY." SPEECH WAS FULLY CONFIDENT AND GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC. PRESIDENT STASSINOPOULOS IN SUBSTANCE AND TONE SPOKE IN SIMILAR VEIN. END SUMMARY.

2. IN HIS TEN MINUTE MESSAGE BROADCAST OVER RADIO AND TELEVISION NEW YEAR'S EVE, CARAMANLIS SEVERAL TIMES REFERRED TO "HUMILIATION" OF GREEK PEOPLE IN 1974 UNDER JUNTA. WHILE NOTING THAT PORTUGAL, ARGENTINA AND THAILAND HAD RECENTLY EMERGED FROM ANXIOUS, DICTATORIAL EXPERIENCES, GREECE WAS UNIQUE IN KNOWING WHERE IT IS HEADING IN NEW YEAR. HE URGED COUNTRYMEN TO REJOICE AT WHAT THEY HAVE ACHIEVED, BUT TO REMAIN VIGILANT AND ON GUARD.

3. HE SAID HIS CONSTANT PURSUIT HAS BEEN TO CREATE "A IMILD POLITICAL
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CLIMATE" AND OBSERVED THAT SEVERAL OF THE CRITICAL PROBLEMS HE

HAS SOLVED MIGHT HAVE "TORMENTED OUR COUNTRY FOR SEVERAL YEARS. AND THEY COULD HAVE UNDERMINED THE EMOTIONAL SERENITY OF OUR PEOPLE, RENDERING IMPOSSIBLE ALL CONSTRUCTIVE DEEDS." IN THIS VEIN HE CRITICIZED "CERTAIN CIRCLES TRYING TO DISTURB THIS CLIMATE WHICH IS INDISPENSABLE FOR DEMOCRACY TO GROWN AND BEAR FRUITS. THEY FORGET THAT SIMILAR BEHAVIOR AND PROPORTIONATE HABITS LED THE COUNTRY TO PAINFUL ADVENTURES AND, FINALLY, TO THE FALL OF OUR DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT." HIS SPEECH CONTAINED NO OTHER COMMENT ABOUT OR TO THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION.

4. THE GREETING OF PRESIDENT STASSINOPOULOS, WHICH WAS DELIVERED IN SAME NATIONAL BROADCAST, PARALLELED THEMES OF CARAMANLIS WITH EXCEPTION THAT PRESIDENT REFERRED TO CYPRUS, A SUBJECT WHICH CARAMANLIS DID NOT TOUCH UPON. STASSINOPOULOS SAID GREECE "HAS TASTED WITH GREAT BITTERNESS THE INJUSTICE AND UNLAWFULNESS INFLICTED ON A LIVING PART OF HELLENISM, ON THE TORMENTED ISLAND OF CYPRUS."
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